Applicant(s): NAUMANN Examiner: Tri H. PHAN Group Art Unit: 2616

Amendments to the Claims:

Status of Claims:

Claims 1, 3, 5-10, 13-18, 20-24 are pending for examination.

Claims 2, 4, 11, 12, and 19 were previously canceled.

Claim 1 is amended herein.

Claim 3 is cancelled herein.

Claims 1, 10 and 18 are in independent form.

Claims Listing

1. (Currently Amended) In a communications system having a router, said router having a PCI compliant front card, said front card being configured to accept a LAN or WAN compliant back card, a method for detecting the absence of a Phy Layer device on the back card and communicating said absence to the front card, said A method comprising:

receiving, by a switching input of a tri-state buffer provided on the <u>a PCI-compliant</u> front card <u>comprising an FE MAC in a router</u>, a sensing signal from the <u>a</u> back card <u>comprising an FE Phy in the router</u>, where the tri-state buffer is serially disposed on a IDSEL line corresponding to a particular channel;

if <u>thesaid</u> sensing signal is a logical low, then coupling a IDSEL signal corresponding to a particular channel of <u>thesaid</u> back card to <u>thesaid</u> front card; and

if <u>thesaid</u> sensing signal is not low, then decoupling <u>thesaid</u> IDSEL signal from <u>thesaid</u> front card and providing a logical low signal in the place of <u>thesaid</u> IDSEL <u>signal</u>

line, wherein

said front card comprises an FE MAC, and said back card comprises an FE Phy.

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- 2. (Canceled)
- 3. (Cancelled) The method of claim 1, wherein said tri-state buffer further has an input and an output, said input and output being serially disposed on a IDSEL line corresponding to a particular channel.
- 4. (Canceled)
- 5. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said front card and said back card are coupled via an MII bus.
- 6. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said front card comprises an HDLC control, and said back card comprises a T1/E1 frame/line interface.
- 7. (Previously presented) The method of claim 6, wherein said from card and said back card are coupled via a TDM bus.
- 8. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said front card comprises an ATM SAR, and said back card comprises an ATM Phy.
- 9. (Previously presented) The method of claim 8, wherein said front card and said back card are coupled via a Utopia bus.
- 10. (Previously presented) In a communications system having a router, said router having a PCI-compliant front card, said front card being configured to accept a LAN or WAN compliant back card, an apparatus for detecting the absence of a Phy

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Layer device on the back card and communicating said absence to the front card, said apparatus comprising:

means for switching disposed on the front card comprising a tri-state buffer wherein said tri-state buffer has an input, an output, and a switching input wherein said input and said output of said tri-state buffer being serially disposed on said front card and said switching input of said tri-state buffer is configured to be coupled to said back card, wherein said front card comprises an FE MAC, and said back card comprises an FE Phy;

said means for switching being configured to receive a sensing signal from the back card, said sensing signal having a first and second state;

said means for switching being further configured to provide a predetermined signal to said front card responsive to said state of sensing signal.

- 11. (Canceled)
- 12. (Canceled)
- 13. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein said from card and said back card are coupled via an MII bus.
- 14. (Original) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein said front card comprises an HDLC control, and said back card comprises a T1/E1 frame/line interface.
- 15. (Original) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein said front card and said back card are coupled via a TDM bus.
- 16. (Original) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein said front card comprises an ATM SAR, and said back card comprises an ATM Phy.

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- 17. (Original) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein said front card and said back card are coupled via a Utopia bus.
- 18. (Previously presented) An apparatus for detecting the absence of a LAN or WAN compliant device, said apparatus comprising:

a PCI-compliant front card, said front card being configured to accept a LAN or WAN compliant back card wherein said front card comprises an FE MAC, and said back card comprises an FE Phy;

said front card further having a switch, said switch being a tri-state-buffer being serially disposed on a IDSEL connection corresponding to a particular channel on said front card, said switch being further configured to receive a sensing signal corresponding to said channel from said device by switching input of said tri-state buffer; and

wherein said apparatus is configured to couple said IDSEL connection to said front card if said sensing signal is in a first state, and provide a low potential to said, front card if said sensing signal is in a second state.

- 19. (Canceled)
- 20. (Original) The apparatus of claim 18, wherein said front card and said back card are coupled via an MII bus.
- 21. (Original) The apparatus of claim 20, wherein said front card comprises an HDLC control, and said back card comprises a T1/E1 frame/line interface.
- 22. (Original) The apparatus of claim 18, wherein said front card and said back card are coupled via a TDM bus.

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- 23. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 20, wherein said front card comprises an ATM SAR, and said back card comprises an ATM Phy.
- 24. (Original) The apparatus of claim 18, wherein said from card and said back card are coupled via a Utopia bus.